

11-17-2006

Montana Kaimin, November 17, 2006

Students of The University of Montana, Missoula

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A potato
homicide?

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returns to Missoula

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a real tryptophan

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Indian Ed
course may
become new
requirement

EMMA SCHMAUTZ
MONTANA KAIMIN

Students attending the University of Montana and other colleges in the Montana University System may be required to take an American Indian studies course if they want to transfer to another university in the state.

The Board of Regents discussed a proposal at its meetings in the UC this week that would make American Indian studies part of its general education core, which are courses a student must complete to transfer credits from one university in Montana to another.

"This is one piece in a great big puzzle that is Indian education for all," Regent Janine Pease said.

Montana constitutional law requires that students in Montana public schools study American Dp/CJ

See INDIAN ED, Page 6



Hugh Carey/Montana Kaimin

Regent Mark Semmens speaks during the Montana Board of Regents meeting Thursday afternoon in the UC Ballroom. The Board will meet again today to conduct a legislative performance audit before touring the new journalism building.

Highlands Golf Course remains
on the negotiating block for UM
University will purchase course if there is money to be made

STORIES BY SEAN BRESLIN
MONTANA KAIMIN

The Montana Board of Regents gave the University of Montana approval on Wednesday to continue negotiations to purchase the Highlands Golf Course, provided that UM will be able to make money on the deal.

UM is currently investigating the finances of the purchase and the course's ability to generate revenue, said UM President George Dennison. Should the deal go through, the UM Foundation would

purchase the course and lease it to UM, Dennison said.

"We aren't proposing to use any University funds to acquire it," Dennison said.

The land on the south campus, currently occupied by the UM Golf Course, will likely be needed for new academic buildings and student housing, Dennison said. The owner of Highlands has agreed to donate most of the value of the course to the Foundation, putting the purchase price in the neighborhood of \$500,000.

But some community members

are not happy about the change in courses, saying that some golfers might have trouble walking the course located in the South Hills.

"It's not a good choice at all for golfers," said Sidney Cone, who plays at the south campus course. "The one up on the hill is just much too steep."

But to Higher Education Commissioner Sheila Stearns, the major concern wasn't the course's slope, but its cost effectiveness.

"It would really have to make sense in terms of the finances," Stearns said.

Dennison brings mental health issues to BOR

In meetings filled with talk of budget numbers and full-time equivalent students, University of Montana President George Dennison brought an unusual topic to the Board of Regents' attention: student mental health.

"It's a very serious, very difficult issue," Dennison said.

According to data Dennison presented to the Regents, an average of 43.75 percent of UM students over the past six years have felt "so depressed it was hard to function." He said his

reading of Tom Wolfe's novel on campus life, "I am Charlotte Simmons," prompted him to become more active in meeting the mental health needs of students at UM.

Regent Mark Semmens agreed with Dennison's concerns, adding that mentally healthy students are more inclined to stay in school and contribute to the Montana University System.

"It's the ethical thing to do," Semmens said. "It's good policy and it's good business."

Dennison said UM has hired a psychiatrist to work at the Curry Health Center, and said UM is currently developing a suicide prevention program. Dennison did not want to go into details about the program because of the sensitivity of the topic, he said.

Student Regent Heather O'Loughlin said the Regents are aware of mental health concerns, but a reminder never hurts.

"It's nice to hear it directly from a president," O'Loughlin said.

BOR approves inflationary fee increases

The Montana Board of Regents approved a plan Thursday to allow automatic fee increases for the University Center and Campus Recreation in order to keep up with inflation.

The automatic fee increases will only be used to support existing services. If the UC or Campus Recreation request a fee increase of more than 5 percent, the increase must be approved by the facility's advisory board and ASUM. The fee increases would still need to be approved by the

Regents. The plan is a pilot project that will be reviewed again in 2008.

The Board approved a measure that standardized tuition and fees for online education students in the Montana University System. Under the plan, out-of-state tuition for purely online students must be at least 200 percent of the in-state tuition to prevent out-of-state students from getting state support. The plan also allows campuses to waive fees for purely online students that are associated with on-

campus activities, like the athletic fee or recycling fee.

The Board gave UM the go-ahead to begin drawing up plans for an additional 3,000 to 4,000 seats to be added at Washington-Grizzly Stadium, including some 1,600 new student section seats. According to UM President George Dennison, a fee increase could help pay for the increased seating at the stadium, but "most of the revenue will come from the seats, not from the students," he said.

COT might offer
dual-credit plan
to high schoolers

HANNAH HEIMBUCH
MONTANA KAIMIN

High school students in Missoula may be able to start classes at the University of Montana College of Technology as soon as this spring thanks to a new program being developed between local high schools and the COT.

Jim Clark, superintendent of Missoula County Public Schools, and COT Dean Barry Good have been working on setting up a dual-credit system between the COT and Missoula's high schools, in which juniors and seniors would be eligible to take a language arts or math class at the COT and earn both high school and college credit.

"I'm really excited about the possibility of this going forward," Good said.

And though they will have to invest in fees and books, the students will not have to pay tuition – a perk that sounds pretty good to some students.

"It'd be a major determining factor," said Big Sky High School junior Stephanie Running. Running is in Big Sky's integrated-three (third level) honors math class, and said she'd definitely be interested in taking her studies to the COT. "Probably for the math class," she said. "I'm more into math and science."

Though the agreement isn't finalized, both Clark and Good said they expect the program to be ready to roll by the start of spring 2007 semester.

"There are two possibilities, one in communication arts, one in math," Clark said. He said the classes would be open to students who've reached a certain level in their high school study and test scores would determine eligibility for the math class. "They either have to have a certain score on the SAT or ACT, or they have to take a placement test at the College of Technology," Clark said.

Good said the comprehension test is still being decided on. "We need to look at how testing is going to be done," he said. A few other details also need to be worked out, he said, such as how registration and grade reporting will occur.

"I'm still looking here at the school district level," Clark said. "We want to try to figure out who would be the kids who would be most likely to be successful."

They also need to decide how many students they'll open the doors to each semester.

"We're going to limit it," Good said. "I don't expect there's going to be a tremendous number." What that maximum number will be remains undecided, but Good said it would be less than 100 students.

See COT, Page 7



Question 1: There was a philosophy forum on campus Thursday night about the structure of the universe and if and how it proves that there's a divine creator. What creation do you think proves the existence of a higher power?

Question 2: Since your answer should have been the Gillette Mach 3, why does Schick even bother with the Quattro?



John Mattelin
junior, business

Q1: The balance of everything, the Golden Ratio and stuff. And pyramids. Wait, change pyramids to women.

Q2: I like the Schick, man, you know? I don't know why, I guess 'cause they stopped making the three and the Quattro is titanium, that's way better. I guess that's why I put down more dinero for that one.



Miles Olsen
freshman, physics

Q1: I suppose, just that higher power manifesting itself in front of me, showing its power.

Q2: It's one step closer to eight, where I think they will meet their limit. I currently have a three and I'm not buying a new one until they have eight blades.



Emily Taylor
freshman, pre-communications

Q1: I don't think it's one creation really, but how the creations work together.

Q2: I think that Schick and Gillette shouldn't even bother because Venus is the best... Maybe Bic is the best. I don't know. I'm not really into all that shaving stuff.



Silvana Gross
senior, environmental studies

Q1: The existence of the earth is really... Yeah, I'll go with that.

Q2: Because you have to have four blades to put more hair in. Nothing like hairy razors.



Evan Holmstrom
sophomore, Japanese

Q1: That question supposes things were created, which is kind of bunk. It also calls for a set answer. Every creation is proof of a higher power since every creation is related. Everything is connected to everything else.

Q2: Because, apparently, even though the Mach 3 is the epitome of a higher power, people always must feel they are achieving more by adding more metal blades.

No reason for absent and unfounded political slights

Andy Gionnette, yesterday's Midwestern contributor to the U-Wire slot, continues the absent-minded and unfounded slights that many Republicans have become so well-known for. Sadly, it doesn't seem these people will ever get past name-calling and useless tit-for-tat comparisons. About a third of the way through his brilliant article, he claims fear of increased taxes and expanded government. Now, perhaps I'm mistaken, but who the hell else is going to pay for the fiscal irresponsibility of the past Congress? Maybe forward the bill to Halliburton subsidiaries or, better yet, we should just start taxing the Iraqis. Make them good for something.

Further, on whose watch did the grossly overreaching Patriot Act pass? Of course its power is only to be exercised in terrorist investigations, which evidently includes pornographers and pot dealers. These two cases are just a sampling of power abuse growing more and more rampant under the guise of national security; these



people have nothing to do with terrorism. Maybe we should let that dealer out to smoke up a few more terrorists in hopes they'll forget what they were doing. But, of course the Democrats, in all their wrath, will somehow exceed these disturbing constitutional violations; just give the liberal bastards some time, eh?

Gionnette then moves on to comparing disgraced representative Mark Foley to Bill Clinton, John F. Kennedy and Gary Condit. Perhaps I'm alone here, but if my president needs a blowjob or two in order to carry out business, then there should be a cabinet official whose sole duty is lining up fresh-faced interns. At least Monica was willing and legal. But, pardon me – the \$40 million spent on Clinton's investigation/impeachment really did wonders to restore

“honor” to the White House. You geniuses replaced him with a war criminal. Kudos.

Ahh ... my god, Gionnette, you've reduced me to a whining name-calling liberal who could use a good wiretap alongside an indefinite jail term with suspended rights. Hell, it'd be good for me.

Though, I'll admit, I readily agree with remaining optimistic and observant during these next few years. Hopefully, we can all witness a more responsible and open legislature that doesn't cede all power to the executive while quietly sifting our countries wealth to the top ten percent of American families. Andy, let me not be the first to thank you for allowing me to vent. Oh, as for the Democrats' messianic leadership promises, we all know only one man holds that kind of divine inspiration, but don't worry, Democrats aren't stupid enough to waste time and money impeaching the asshole.

–Thomas Cook
junior, philosophy/journalism

Thou shalt not steal

It seems like nowadays anything you don't nail down gets stolen. One of the reasons that I came to the University of Montana was that there wasn't a lot of campus crime, but it seems that there are always going to be the kind of people who have to go and ruin a good environment by stealing from other people who they've probably never met. Last Friday, I parked my bike out behind the Music Building, like I normally do, and left it against the

wall, unlocked, like I normally do, and went inside for an hour and a half to practice with my brass quintet group. Afterward, when I went to grab my bike and ride over to the Lomasson Center for some good old-fashioned Food Zoo grub, I found that my bike was missing and that an old run-down Huffy bike was left in its place. That's when it hit me that not everyone who came to college here believes in the same basic moral values that I do. I really don't expect to get my bike back by writing a letter to the editor

about it, but hopefully any of you reading this will think twice about taking something that doesn't belong to you. Do your part in turning this campus into one full of integrity and honesty. As for whoever has the bike, please do the right thing and put it back where you found it or contact me through my e-mail if you want to make a deal for it (francais180@hotmail.com).

–Luke Juras
freshman, music

Incensed?

Write a letter.

The Kaimin accepts letters to the editor and guest columns.

Letters should be 300 words or fewer, and columns should be about 700 words. Please include contact phone number when submitting letters and guest columns. Due to technical difficulties, letters to the editor should temporarily be sent to editor@kaimin.umt.edu, or drop them off in Journalism 107. Anyone who sent letters in the past week should resend them to this address.

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Send letters to the editor to letters@kaimin.umt.edu or drop them off in Journalism 107

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Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Pay the price
 - 7 Be mouthy
 - 11 Jurist Fortas
 - 14 Unduly expensive
 - 15 Persia, today
 - 16 Farm enclosure
 - 17 Mathematician Blaise
 - 18 Economized drastically
 - 20 Aerosol medication
 - 22 Twin of Artemis
 - 23 Crack shots
 - 24 Have to have
 - 26 Single step
 - 27 Boot Camp denial
 - 29 Deuce plus one
 - 31 Attila's people
 - 32 LummoX
 - 34 Burn slightly
 - 36 Bishopric
 - 37 Shine with amusement
 - 41 Way of doing things
 - 43 Make free (of)
 - 44 Overhang
 - 46 Nothing at all
 - 47 Sister of Osiris
 - 49 Written material
 - 51 Bounded
 - 55 Uses an axe
 - 57 Sports org.
 - 59 Declare openly
 - 60 Get hold of
 - 62 City dweller
 - 64 Edible crustaceans
 - 66 Sleep inducer
 - 67 Lennon's love
 - 68 "Dies ____"
 - 69 Pockmarked
 - 70 "Oedipus ____"
 - 71 Christmas drinks
 - 72 Garden tools
- DOWN
- 1 Way from Rome to Brindisi
 - 2 Spanish dictator
 - 3 Goes angling
 - 4 Important event
 - 5 Based on fact
 - 6 Welsh poet Thomas
 - 7 Nuns
 - 8 Rainbow shape
 - 9 Poet Teasdale
 - 10 Quick short cuts
 - 11 Two-handed praise
 - 12 Direct paths
 - 13 Approves formally
 - 19 Nocturnal insect
 - 21 Court divider
 - 25 Profound
 - 28 Croupier's tool
 - 30 Fish story
 - 33 Brit's apartment
 - 35 Stir up
 - 37 French flag
 - 38 Offensive formation in football
 - 39 Boob tube
 - 40 Balanced
 - 42 Housework
 - 45 Makes allowances for

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Solutions

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O	R	V	L		A	V	E		S	I	E	R	H	O
B	A	W	S		L		A	C		S	I	L	T	A

- 48 Mineral springs
- 50 Viscous liquid
- 52 Fly
- 53 Boy wizard Harry
- 54 Nubby wools
- 56 Non-violent protest
- 58 Dwelling
- 61 Infamous fiddler
- 63 Impersonated
- 65 Tattered piece of cloth

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Stolen sheets, strips of skin and a squirrel sniper

ZACH FRANZ
MONTANA KAIMIN

Nov. 5, 6:03 a.m.

A caller reported an intoxicated male who had just urinated in the hallway on the fourth floor of Jesse Hall.

The man had passed out on the floor by the time police arrived, said Capt. Jim Lemcke with the Office of Public Safety.

Officers found that the student had some marijuana in his possession, Lemcke said. He was cited for disorderly conduct, underage possession of alcohol and possession of drug paraphernalia – a feat Lemcke refers to as “The Dorm Trifecta.”

Nov. 5, 10:41 a.m.

Public Safety took a report of a car window that had been broken the previous night. The responding officer determined the window had likely been punched out, because near the window he found a strip of skin that was 3 inches long, half-of-an-inch wide and had hair on it, Lemcke said.

“Somebody was having a bad night, and I’m guessing that didn’t improve it,” Lemcke said.

Nov. 6, 12:34 p.m.

A Duniway Hall resident told police that he believed his roommate was selling drugs. Public Safety turned the case over to Missoula Police, and it is being investigated through the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program, a collaboration of various law-enforcement agencies.

Nov. 6, 8:13 p.m.

A student in Aber Hall reported that the sheets on his bed had been stolen.

“I don’t know what to tell people about preventing that kind of theft,” Lemcke said. “That’s not usually a high-demand item for thieves.”

Nov. 8, 12:08 a.m.

A van was parked near the football practice fields with an extension cord running from a space heater in the van to a UM electrical outlet, Lemcke said.

An officer came to check it out. The owner of the van, who was a

student temporarily living in the vehicle, told the officer he wouldn’t identify himself unless he was being arrested. The officer arrested him. The student was cited for theft of services for his use of electricity.

Nov. 6, 8:13 p.m.

A student in Aber Hall reported that the sheets on his bed had been stolen.

Police Blotter

Nov. 13, 2:46 p.m.

An employee in the Country Store spotted a man putting a bag of almonds in his pocket. The man did not present the nuts at the cash register, and was charged with misdemeanor theft, Lemcke said.

Nov. 14, 11:58 p.m.

Someone was throwing potatoes at passing cars from the study lounge on the fourth floor of Jesse Hall. Officers were unable to locate the suspect.

The potatoes were baked and garnished with sour cream, Lemcke said.

“There was no mention of chives in the report,” he said.

Citations:

- Nick Anderson, 19, Possession of dangerous drugs
- Alexander Noordhoek, 19, Disorderly conduct, MIP, possession of drug paraphernalia
- Michael McFadden, Jr., 19, Theft of services
- Casey Gilchrist, 20, Possession of dangerous drugs
- Casey Hansen, 21, Outstanding warrant
- Janel Blakney, 20, MIP
- Maria Kendra, 18, MIP
- Kayla Devlin, 19, MIP
- Maureen Challman, 19, MIP
- Matthew Cunningham, 19, MIP
- Kevin Antonioli, 19, MIP
- Hadlie Hahn, 19, MIP
- Morgan Russell, 18, MIP
- Mason Giem, 19, MIP
- John Rohrbach, 20, Misdemeanor theft

Nov. 8, 12:13 p.m.

A student told police that he had returned to his Jesse Hall room to find his computer and cell phone on the floor, broken. The student’s roommate and another man were in the room, asleep.

The two sleeping guys said they didn’t know what had caused the damage, Lemcke said.

“Localized seismic activity,” speculated Lt. Gary Taylor with the Office of Public Safety.

The incident remains under investigation, Lemcke said.

ing squirrels on campus with a dart gun.

Campus squirrels are an easy but illegal target, Lemcke said.

“All you need is that sack of stolen nuts,” Taylor said.

Nov. 14, 8:42 p.m.

An officer spotted a man walking through the parking lot behind the Lommasson Center, apparently trying to open car doors.

The officer approached the man, and arrested him on an outstanding warrant.

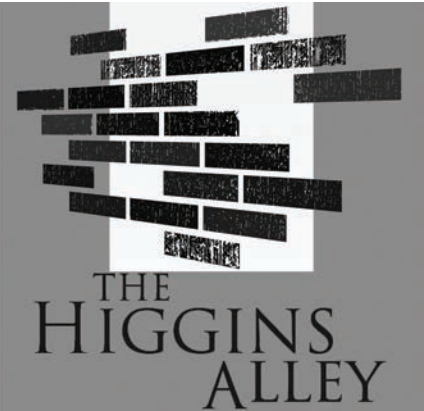
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ANOTHER \$250 SUBSTANCE ABUSE CLASS.

Holiday travel: Pricy airfare plagues Missoula residents

ANNE MEDLEY
FOR THE KAIMIN

Living in Missoula has its perks, but cheap air transportation isn't one of them.

A quick airfare search on any major online travel company reveals roundtrip ticket prices from Missoula's International Airport to major U.S. cities ranging from \$400 to \$600.

For example, a single-connection, roundtrip ticket from Missoula to Chicago for the holidays lists for \$401 on both Travelocity and Expedia. Compare that to the \$283 rate for a roundtrip ticket from New York City to Los Angeles (a distance 1,000 miles more than the distance from Missoula to Chicago), and the disparity becomes clear.

In the face of such staggering airfares, some Missoulians wonder why discount air carriers such as Southwest Airlines have not entered the market. Chris Jensen, director of the Missoula International Airport, blames Missoula's small size and close proximity to one of Southwest's major hubs – Spokane.

According to Jensen, Southwest Airlines requires a population base of 300,000 to 500,000 people in order to establish a hub in any city. Since Missoula likely won't grow to that size for many years, Southwest won't be a player in the local airline industry for quite some time, if ever. Jensen also noted that Southwest's existing market in Spokane would suffer from the establishment of a new hub so close.

Missoula International Airport does offer flights through one econ-

omy carrier. Allegiant Air flies directly to Las Vegas three times per week (four times per week in December) for airfares ranging from \$59 to \$169 one-way. That city's airport offers inexpensive connections to virtually anywhere else in the country.

"Many people don't know that Las Vegas is the third-cheapest airport to fly out of in the country," Jensen said.

For those who prefer not to be restricted by Allegiant Air's Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday flight schedule to Las Vegas, Spokane International Airport – three hours to the west of Missoula – provides inexpensive alternatives. Jensen said that Missoula's airport loses approximately five percent of its potential customers to Spokane's airport, but the inconvenience of

getting there keeps that percentage low.

Greyhound Lines Inc., the nation's largest bus transportation provider, runs buses twice daily from Missoula to Spokane. But buses often fill up quickly, and delays in service can result in missed flights. Still, Steve Hintz, Missoula Greyhound Bus manager, said many people continue to take the bus to catch cheaper flights. He estimates that 10 people per week board the local Greyhounds to Spokane to cash in on cheaper airfare.

How much money are Missoulians saving by driving or taking the Greyhound to Spokane to catch cheaper flights for the upcoming holidays? Consider the following information based on a roundtrip flight from Missoula to

Chicago departing Tuesday, Dec. 19, and returning Tuesday, Jan. 16 (arbitrary dates), and a roundtrip flight from Spokane to Chicago for the same dates.

Based on this scenario, Missoulians traveling to Spokane for better holiday airfare and the convenience of traveling any day of the week actually don't save money. Travelers with friends in Spokane might manage to avoid long-term airport parking fees, but the added travel time and inconvenience of driving to and from Spokane may not justify the \$66 saved by not flying from Missoula.

For those travelers able to depart Missoula on a Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday, Allegiant Air offers the best deal – hands down.

26 bikes stolen on UM campus since August

TY HAMPTON
MONTANA KAIMIN

Bike theft on campus this fall is down substantially from last year but remains a problem that students should be aware of, according to Capt. Jim Lemcke with the Office of Public Safety.

Twenty-six bike thefts have been reported to public safety so far this semester, a far cry from last year's total of 41 thefts as of the Thanksgiving break. In 2004, 22 thefts were reported during the same period of time.

Lemcke said the difference between the years might not be evident until the end of the year because of groups or individuals who often steal multiple bikes at a time.

"Bike thieves are like people who steal car stereo equipment or stuff from cars, they hit a lot of

them at once looking for the big score," Lemcke said.

Public safety received a report of bike theft at the Lewis and Clark Villages a few weeks back. Public safety checked past surveillance camera footage and caught two men in the act, but was unable to positively identify the individuals.

Public safety posted flyers with surveillance camera photos of the thieves at the apartment complex, in the dorms and in the Kaimin, in hopes that someone would be able to identify the men. No tips have come and Lemcke said they have no leads on the individuals other than using the tape to determine the method the thieves used in stealing the bikes, which may leave a trail in the future if similar thefts occur.

"We're sure they're a couple of individuals who have been stealing bikes this year," Lemcke said. "It's really frustrating because we have

footage of them committing the act, but no way of identifying them."

Lemcke said that this was not the first time public safety used surveillance camera footage to help solve a case, adding that surveillance cameras were essential in the evidence and outcome of the case of former UM basketball player Sam Riddle being beaten by a group of men at Lewis and Clark Villages last year.

"It's looking better on campus right now, but all it takes is one or two guys to go out and steal 10 bikes in one night to change that," he said.

"The big thing is to be aware that you're vulnerable. Students should use a good lock—preferably a 'U-lock,' and if you've got a nice bike that you're not going to ride for a while in the winter, maybe put it in your dorm room or apartment for a bit."



Photo courtesy of the Office of Public Safety
Pictured above are the two men the Office of Public Safety caught on surveillance cameras as they stole bikes at the Lewis and Clark Villages a few weeks ago.

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INDIAN ED

Continued from Page 1

Indian heritage. Board Chair Lynn Morrison-Hamilton said the proposal is the Regents' response to extending Montana constitutional law to higher education.

The Regents on Thursday voted in favor of a resolution that would require education majors in Montana to take a course in American Indian heritage and culture in order to graduate. The resolution also requires that all colleges under the Montana University System offer at least one class in American Indian studies.

The University of Montana already requires that its education majors take a course from the Native American studies department.

But while UM has a large Native American studies department, other colleges in the state have few or no existing classes that offer study of tribal culture, which, Regents say, is a concern.

Pease said that while she is in favor of requiring education majors to study Montana tribes, she is concerned that current Native American studies programs in some Montana universities do not have the resources or faculty to handle the increased number of students in their classes.

Another concern is that education majors already have their schedules full of required courses and will have difficulty fitting in an additional required class.

"Schools of education will have to balance what they have prescribed for their students," Pease said. "Now they have one more base to cover."

Regent member Roger Barber said he expects that in March the

Board will approve the resolution requiring transfer students to take an American Indian studies course.

He said that aside from honoring the Montana constitution, the Regents believe American Indian education is important for teaching students about the community in which they live.

Barber said that the course could come from a variety of departments including anthropology, history and even mathematics as long as the content is focused on American Indians.

According to the proposal, funding for any new courses and faculty to meet the new requirements must come from a university's existing funds.

Dave Beck, a UM Native American studies professor, said that many smaller public colleges in Montana do not have large American Indian studies programs, and because of this the bar for the requirement needs to be set low.

Beck is a proponent of having a Native American culture course become a graduation requirement for all students.

"Anybody who lives in Montana should have an understanding of the unique relationship tribes have with the state and the U.S. government," Beck said.

But, he acknowledges, under current conditions, forcing all students to take a Native American course would not be feasible at UM because the University lacks the funding and faculty.

"It would put a tremendous burden on the system," Beck said.

There are seven federally recognized American Indian reservations in Montana today including the tribes of Blackfeet, Chippewa Cree, Salish, Kootenai, Crow, Assiniboine, Gros Ventre, Sioux and Northern Cheyenne.

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The

Story by Alex Sakariassen
Photos by Shane McMillan

Decemberists



A concert-goer watches the opening act, Alasdair Robert, at the Decemberists concert in the Wilma Theater Thursday night.

With red paper lanterns dancing in the air above them, the Decemberists sent pulses of pure alternative rock across the heads of a crazed audience at the Wilma Theatre Thursday night.

University of Montana grad and band frontman Colin Meloy warmed up his crowd of about 1,000 fans with the first and title track from the band's new album, "Crane Wife."

Last night's concert marked the long-awaited, and for some long-forsaken, return of Meloy and his fellow Decemberists to the Missoula music scene. After drunks overwhelmed their last Missoula performance at the Ritz, the band vowed never to return.

"The last time we played Missoula, I had to

make a solemn oath to my bandmates that we'd never play Missoula again," Meloy explained to the crowd.

Fans hooted and hollered as Meloy crooned ballads from "Crane Wife," "Her Majesty," "The Decemberists" and other albums. Stage lights sank to deep crimson as Meloy shifted into the song "Shankill Butchers."

"We're going to move into the more horrific, bloody part of the set," he explained.

Meloy's stage presence became something much different when the band moved on to the electric rock piece "The Perfect Crime #2." The icing on this gritty rock cake came when Meloy sank to his knees, then to his stomach, worming

across the stage.

The Decemberists finished their set with the three-part second track from "Crane Wife," starting with the jazzy Jethro Tull-esque tune "The Island." Mere minutes after the band vacated the stage, Meloy returned to quench the roaring audience's thirst for an encore. After strumming the mournful solo "Save Yourself," he called out the troops for one last gimmick, a historical re-enactment of the voyage of Lewis and Clark.

"By the way, thanks for being so freaking cool," he said before plucking the final chords of an older hit, "A Cautionary Tale."

"We'll see you soon."



Songwriter and lead singer Colin Meloy shouts out to the crowd.



Named after the Russian Decemberist Revolt and the atmosphere of the month of December, the Decemberists put on a unique show. Their background featured an Asian landscape and was adorned with lanterns.



Above: With tickets selling out, event staffers estimated that just more 1,000 people stuffed themselves into the Wilma for the concert. Lead singer Colin Meloy said he was just getting over a cold. He started the concert saying to the crowd “We’re relying on you to sing as much as possible.”

Upper Left: Bartender Shelly Grossi serves customers from a bar under a set of stars in the Wilma just before the concert.



Left: At 7 p.m., the line to get into the Wilma runs down Higgins to El Cazador and follows Front Street almost to MacKenzie River Pizza Co. The girl in the front of the line had been waiting since 3:30 in the afternoon. When the doors opened the inside of the Wilma erupted with activity as people poured in.

MSU prof: Intelligent design doesn't hold up to intellectual scrutiny

PAT DUGANZ
MONTANA KAIMIN

Intelligent design, the idea that an "omnipotent fine-tuner" created the universe, is flawed because it is not an untestable notion, said a Montana State University professor Thursday evening.

"The usual argument from the fact that the values of the initial parameters of the universe are very improbable to the existence of God depends on a confusion between evidence and confirmation," said Gordon Brittan Jr. in his speech "Intelligent Design,

Fine-Tuning and the God Hypothesis."

He explained that the confusion is like tuberculosis testing; 25 percent of all TB tests returned positive, but less than one percent of people testing positive actually have the disease.

One of the nearly 60 people in the audience asked Brittan if the term God could just as easily be changed to "Satan" when discussing intelligent design. Brittan said this is not the case because Satan has religious connotations, while God, to many who discuss intelligent design, does not.

"Proponents of Intelligent

design drain all content from the term 'God' so as to change it to not be a reference to religion, but merely an 'omnipotent fine-tuner,' he said.

He explained that the argument for design comes from taking the world and noting how intricately it works, from the radioactivity of the sun to the complexity of life, and deducing that it is this fine-tuner at work.

"But not everything works to an optimal way," he said. "The retina for example is not a very well designed feature. It can be detached by simply getting a hard hit in the head."

"Until we have a physical explanation of values (of the universe) we will not have a very satisfactory answer to those who think that God could have brought a life supporting universe into existence," He concluded.

Brittan added, however, "We do not have any good, physical evidence against God or proving him."

Kevin Nalty, a psychology student and self-described theologian, came to the forum because he had heard it was about God and Intelligent design. He was not persuaded by Brittan's argument.

"If anything, I believe in

(Intelligent) Design more ... The human mind can't wrap itself around the complexity of all of this," he said.

Another student, Ali Tabibnejad, did not buy into Brittan's call for a physical explanation of God.

"God is a moral force, not a physical force," he said.

Brittan said that physical evidence is needed for the argument of design to be proven because as the argument stands now "It can't be proven. God's actions do not need a cause."

House Democrats choose Pelosi as first female speaker

DAVID ESPO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – You win some and you lose some in Congress, and quickly. Just ask Nancy Pelosi.

Democrats embraced the Californian as the first woman House speaker in history on Thursday, then quickly snubbed her, selecting Steny Hoyer of Maryland as majority leader against her wishes.

"Let the healing begin," Pelosi, D-Calif., said after Hoyer had eased past her pre-

ferred candidate, Rep. John Murtha, a prominent opponent of the war in Iraq. The secret-ballot vote for Hoyer was 149-86. She was chosen by acclamation.

Added Hoyer, a 25-year veteran of Congress: "The Republicans need to know, the president needs to know and the country needs to know our caucus is unified today."

Hoyer received a congratulatory call from Bush, who was traveling in Asia, press secretary Tony Snow told reporters on Air Force One.

Hoyer, Murtha and several other

Democrats predicted there would be no lingering effects from the bruising leadership campaign as the party looks ahead to taking control of the House in January after a dozen years in the minority.

Not everyone sounded convinced, though. "It created these tensions that we now have to work on," said Rep. Jose Serrano of New York, a Hoyer supporter.

Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., who backed Murtha, said some members of the rank-and-file had told both rival camps to count them as supporters. "We know who they

are," he said, although he later added that many of them were lawmakers whose victories on Nov. 7 gave Democrats their majority.

"If they're freshmen, they get a pass on this one," he said.

Democrats chose their leaders for the next two years as lawmakers in both houses labored to wrap up work for the expiring 109th Congress and look ahead to the 110th, which convenes on Jan. 4.



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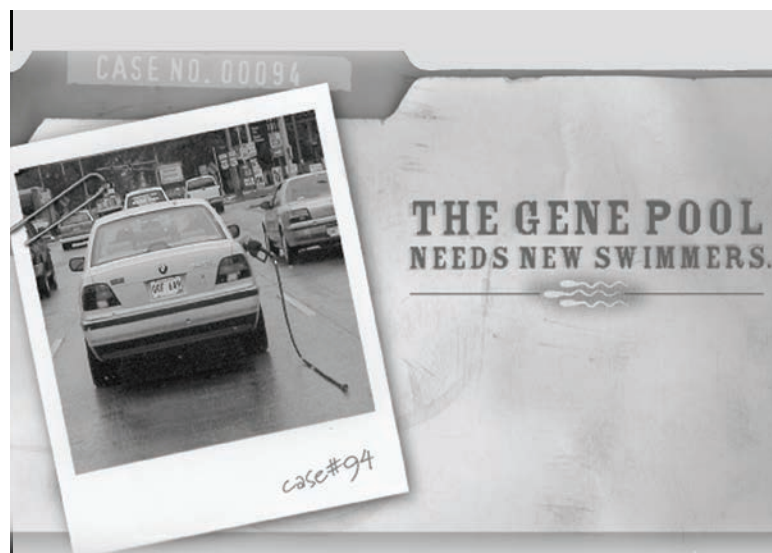
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Global warming speaker paints dire picture of future

JAMES LABER
MONTANA KAIMIN

Despite what the press may say, global warming is an eminent threat to our planet, said a visiting lecturer Thursday evening. And if action isn't taken soon, he said, our nation's capital could be underwater by the end of the century.

"If (global warming) continues, we might have to start worrying about threats other than terrorists," said Chuck Tooley during his slideshow presentation in the Gallagher Business Building.

Tooley, a former mayor of Billings, was selected for a three-day training session with former Vice President Al Gore to present Gore's slideshow on global warming. The slideshow, which was shown at UM Thursday, was made famous by the feature film, "An Inconvenient Truth."

Tooley said that the 10 hottest years on record have all come since 1992. Increased levels of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases are the cause of the rising temperatures. The current level of CO2 in the atmosphere is the highest it has been in 650,000 years, which is as far back as scientists can currently test.

Despite these facts, many people do not believe that global warming is occurring. Tooley said this is in large part due to the misconception that the scientific community doesn't agree that global warming is taking place.

"Consensus as strong as it is (on the issue of global warming) is rare among the scientific community," said Tooley.

The main problem is that the press releases studies that aren't approved by the scientific community, he said.

According to Tooley, in the past 50 years 636 studies of climate change have been released and 53 percent have doubted that global climate change is occurring.

Tooley said that this is misleading the public, because these studies have not been peer reviewed within the scientific commu-

nity. Nine-hundred twenty-eight studies have been released in scientific journals on the same issue and none disputed that global warming is taking place, he said.

So if global warming is occurring, what are the consequences? Fiercer hurricanes, drought and rising sea levels, Tooley said.

Ongoing studies by climatologists predict that the current warming trend will cause the entire Greenland ice sheet to melt during this century. This would raise sea levels by 20 feet, Tooley said.

In that case, the cities of New York, Washington, D.C. and Beijing would be underwater. The Netherlands has begun building floating houses in response to rising sea levels, Tooley said.

"How'd you like to live in one of those," he said. "At least you wouldn't have to mow the lawn."

Rising sea level may not affect Montana greatly, but Tooley said that global warming will still threaten the state.

One of the most powerful symbols of global warming is Glacier National Park, he said. The largest glaciers in the park have shrunk to less than one-third of their size in 1850 and by 2030 the park will have no glaciers at all, he said.



Former Billings Mayor Chuck Tooley speaks about global warming Thursday evening in the Gallagher Business Building. Tooley is one of 50 people who were trained by former Vice President Al Gore to show the PowerPoint on the subject made famous in the movie, "An Inconvenient Truth."

Rising temperatures also mean less snow pack in the mountains, which in turn will cause water shortages and increased wildfire intensity, he said.

The news in Tooley's lecture was not all bad. He pointed out that the United States has almost eliminated the once immense amount of the greenhouse gas chlorofluorocarbon, a gas once used as a propellant for aerosol sprays, it releases into the atmosphere. He also said "we're in the process of fixing the holes in our ozone."

"It's not true that the problem of global warming is unfixable, but we need to act

now," he said. "We have the technology now to cut our carbon use."

Although global warming is a worldwide issue, there are many things a student can do to help the problem, like urging politicians to support anti-global warming legislation, Tooley said.

"You need to talk to every elected official you know and ask them what is being done about (global warming)," he said.

"This is a moral issue and do not think for a second that it's not," he said. "Earth is the only home we will ever have and we have the power to decide its future."



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**-Courtney Babcock
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Not a good trip without a 'Little Miss Sunshine'

DYLAN LASLOVICH
MONTANA KAIMIN

Oversexed 8-year-olds, gay scholar love triangles and deaths during family road trips ... what's not to love?

"Little Miss Sunshine" is one of the best movies you will see all year. Not one cast member, including Greg Kinnear and Steve Carell, falls short of a compelling and entertaining performance.

Olive Hoover (played by Abigail Breslin) qualified for the "Little Miss Sunshine Pageant" because the original qualifier was forced to withdraw. This sends the beauty-queen wannabe into hysteria and the family into a road trip from hell.

The main cast is made up of the Hoover family and the wife's

brother, Frank (Carell). The sweet, drug-abusing grandfather (Alan Arkin) shares endearing and genuine moments with his adorable granddaughter that make you think he'd be a pretty decent grandfather minus the whole aforementioned drug problem. The mute son's (Paul Dano) only communication with the world is forged through a notepad and a smirk. Keeping with the angst-driven attitude of teenagers Dano is portraying, he fittingly thinks his parents are "losers." The hard-working parents (Kinnear and Toni Collette) are of particular interest. They are trying to keep things together, but can't resist a good fight. They try hard to give their kids the world, but they struggle to offer the kids a stable home.

The Hoovers are shown in their seemingly separate environments at the beginning of the movie, but it's apparent that they are somehow intertwined. And that's where Carell enters the fold.

A sad set of circumstances has befallen Carell: backstabbing scholars and gay lovers send him plummeting into the Hoover's residence.

"Little Miss Sunshine" could be a great drama if you strip away the outlandish one-liners and focused solely on the movie's bleak insight into middle-class America. Dinners consist of generic KFC-esque "fucking chicken," according to the grandfather. And even though this scene plays out across this country every night at dinner tables, which is most likely situated within view of a television, the

humor of his outburst wins the crowd over.

Early on you learn that Frank attempted to kill himself, and upon arrival at the Hoover household he's told matter-of-factly that he can't be in a closed room alone and all sharp objects have been taken away. This scene is enticing without the humor. You feel bad that this once-proud scholar has been relegated to child-protection status. But even before he gets situated the mute son urges Carell to refrain from killing himself while they share a room, not out of concern for Carell's health, and you can't help but laugh at how ridiculous and callous this scene is. Carell tells his niece that he wanted to quit life because he was sad. Without missing a beat, Kinnear tells his daughter "winners never

ever quit; only losers quit, honey."

"Little Miss Sunshine" is what "The Royal Tenenbaums" should have been. Though the latter is mildly funny, it doesn't come close to the former. The drama and pain is real. The ironic failure of Kinnear's "9 Steps to Success" evokes empathy as well as laughter.

The cross-country road trip to the "Little Miss Sunshine Pageant" leaves Chevy Chase's "National Lampoon's Vacation" in the rearview mirror. And seeing the family push start the Volkswagen Bus repeatedly is priceless and symbolic of the miserable life they live together. But every time the Bus starts it acts as the silver lining in the cloud that, together, they might be able to make something of it all.

Pick something other than 'Tenacious D' at the movies

DAVID GERMAIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

So Jack Black has cashed in on his success by getting someone to pony up the bucks for an ego project, "Tenacious D in the Pick of Destiny," a comic fabrication about how he and Kyle Gass formed their musical duo.

Only the most tenacious, diehardiest Tenacious D fans could love "Pick of Destiny," an inside joke that runs out of laughs five minutes in yet lingers through an hour and a half of self-satisfied mugging that's irritating.

Director Liam Lynch, a Black and Gass pal who has worked with them on Tenacious D short films and a DVD release by the duo, shares screenwriting credit with the two stars.

What they came up with is no more trite than, say, "Bill & Ted's

Excellent Adventure," but that musical odyssey offered genuine and consistent mainstream laughs.

"Pick of Destiny" opens with promise in an amusing scene involving the rebellious young Black (Troy Gentile, who also played his young incarnation in "Nacho Libre") in an rock-opera sing-off against his dad (Meat Loaf) over the boy's love of the foul rock sound.

Black, known here as "JB," leaves home, wandering the country in search of his destiny, eventually arriving with guitar on his back in Hollywood, where he falls in with street musician KG (Gass).

After some initial growing pains, they form Tenacious D, their self-proclaimed greatest band on Earth, and try their hand at an open-mike night, where their odd, manic duet goes over like stale beer.

From rock magazines, they

notice that all the great strummers use the same devilish guitar pick. They learn from a guitar-store clerk (played in a cameo by a surprise guest who'll extract a chuckle or two from viewers) that the pick was fashioned from a little nugget of Satan's anatomy left behind in a battle with mortals centuries earlier.

Devil music. Rock 'n' roll. Finally, it all makes sense.

JB and KG embark on a quest to retrieve the pick and use it to win a talent contest that will start them on the path toward rock godhood.

It's all pure goofs and silliness, but even goofs and silliness need to be funny. This isn't.

The movie features cameos from other friends and associates of Tenacious D, including Black's occasional co-star Colin Hanks and heavy-metal veteran Ronnie James Dio.

Black and Gass, who met as

members of Tim Robbins' Actors Gang troupe, enlisted their old mentor to play a gnarly, menacing stranger also in search of the pick of destiny. It's a mostly weird and empty part for Robbins, though he does provide one of the movie's few good laughs toward the end.

The playful rambles of Tenacious D's music occasionally enliven the movie, but the personae of JB and KG are so cartoonishly dumb and boorish, it's hard to relate to them as much more

than flat characters in a mediocre bit of sketch comedy.

That's essentially what "Pick of Destiny" is — a comedy sketch, painfully prolonged to movie length.

"Tenacious D in the Pick of Destiny," a New Line release, is rated R for pervasive language, sexual content and drug use. Running time: 94 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

S A R C

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The **Dennison Staff Award for Distinguished Accomplishment** is granted annually to a classified staff member who has completed ten years of employment at The University of Montana and has distinguished accomplishments within the employee's work unit that lends luster to The University of Montana (luster: "excellence, merit, distinction or glory").

The **Dennison Faculty Award and the Dennison Staff Award** will be presented at the Charter Day ceremonies on **15 February 2007**.

For information about the nomination process, please contact the Office of the President at (406) 243-2311.

Nominations due by Friday, 8 December 2006, to:
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Missoula, MT 59812
Fax: (406) 243-2797



UM creative writers get 'Second Wind' this weekend

ALEX SAKARIASSEN
MONTANA KAIMIN

Two unlikely bedfellows of the University of Montana's writing scene will converge this Sunday at 7 p.m. in the newly-expanded Shakespeare and Company bookstore, as the Second Wind reading series brings together poet Jeremy Pataky and environmental writer Phil Condon.

"The notion of creating a point of overlap for the two writing programs at the University, the creative writing department and the environmental studies writing program, seemed like a good idea," Pataky said. "I've spent time with several EVST writers and have always appreciated them, and I look forward to participating in an event that includes both of them."

The Second Wind reading series, sponsored by the UM creative writing department, has served as an outlet for local and student writers for more than 20 years. During its life, the series has been of particular value to graduate students in the creative writing program.

"Most second-year MFA creative writing students read in the series each year, usually alongside a professional writer," Pataky said.

Condon's history with the Second Wind reading series dates back to his own years as a graduate student in UM's creative writ-

ing program.

"When I was in grad school in the English department, I, and two others, helped run Second Wind," Condon said.

That first taste of Missoula's itinerant student writing community came in 1988, when the series still held its readings in the smoky confines of downtown bars and crowded corners of local cafes. Now Condon, a professor of environmental writing and literature at UM, will stand before an audience of old friends and fresh faces nestled among the shelves of Missoula bookstore Shakespeare and Company.

"I'm just looking forward to this because it's in Missoula and I'll know a lot of the people," Condon said. "Maybe some of my students will come."

Pataky expressed a similar level of excitement about reading his own works in front of Missoula's increasingly prose-hungry masses, though he said much of the thrill of this weekend's reading will be stand-



Shane McMillan/Montana Kaimin

ing next to a kindred spirit.

"The prospect of doing a reading with Phil Condon was exciting because we are both concerned about the natural world and writ-

ing," Pataky said.

Each writer will spend about 35 minutes reading selections from his collection of works. The selections are not required to follow a particular theme, allowing Pataky and Condon to present their personal favorites or even pieces that have not yet been read publicly.

"I'll be reading some recent poems, and some poems in progress this Sunday," Pataky said.

Condon said he plans to read one of his newest essays entitled "Wings in Wheat," but does not yet know what other piece he will present. More likely than not, his selection will include one other environmental essay, he said.

"I have two or three options in my mind, and I just wait and go with what feels right," Condon said.

Sunday's reading will be Condon's first in nearly a year. His last public reading was in Bend, Ore., as the featured writer at the 2005 Nature of Words writers conference. Condon has gained fame as both a fiction writer and an envi-

ronmental writer, winning the prestigious William Faulkner Award for Creative Writing. He has had three books published since 1994.

It was Pataky who first contacted Condon about Sunday's reading, while casting about for an accomplished local writer to star alongside him.

"Jeremy just e-mailed me and asked if I'd be interested," Condon said.

Pataky graduated from Western Washington University in 2001, where he studied poetry. A native of northern Idaho, he traveled throughout Washington and Alaska before settling down in Missoula as a student at UM.

"Missoula is wonderfully supportive of the literary arts," Pataky said. "A great deal of writers and readers live here, and the literary scene is not exclusively a byproduct of the university the way it is in some towns."

Shakespeare and Company employee Emily Baker has taken charge of preparing the store's new expansion for each Second Wind reading. A former UM creative writing and literature student, Baker said she's enjoyed working with the series in its attempts to find a more permanent location.

"It's interesting to see the MFA program here in action," she said.



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You know it's hard out there for a Bobcat fan

AMBER KUEHN
MONTANA KAIMIN

Being part of Griz Nation is a good time. It means taking part in one of the greatest football traditions – following a winning team and bashing on the Bobcats.

But for some University of Montana students and student-athletes, it's different. For those who hail from Bozeman, it's weird being in Griz territory during the biggest rivalry week in Montana football ... even for those who bleed maroon and silver.

Britney Lohman is one of those Bozeman natives, and a sophomore forward for the Lady Griz basketball team. She said it will be weird to have her friends from Bozeman come down and stay with her for Griz-Cat weekend.

"Everyone knows I'm a Griz though," she said. "I never really

considered going to Bozeman. I'll always be a Griz fan before I'd ever be a Cat fan."

Several students from Bozeman said they try to just stay out of it, and don't really consider themselves loyal to one team or the other. Denise Barrett, a freshman studying elementary education, said she thinks she is a fan of both teams, if that's possible in Montana. Although she tends to ride the fence, she made a bet with her Bozeman friends that the Griz would win.

"It'll be fun to see who wins," she said. "It's funny because (in Bozeman) you hear all the bad stuff about the Griz, and then you get here and it's the opposite."

Ross Carlson, a sophomore geography major, also tends to lean in favor of the Griz. Still it's different being here for the rivalry when you hail from Bozeman, he said.

"You hear about how good the Cats are all your life, and then you get here and they suck," he said.

Another student, junior Laura Franklin said she's a Griz fan even though her dad has ties to Montana State.

"My dad works at MSU, but I never really cared about Cat football," she said. "People ask me a lot why I didn't go to school in Bozeman. I like Missoula better."

Dillon Warn thinks he will like Missoula more too. Warn is a student at MSU who is planning to transfer to UM next semester. He's got a ticket to the game, but said it will be intimidating being surrounded by Griz fans.

"I think it'll be weird to be one of those people with ties to both teams," he said. "It's kind of like someone living during the American Revolution—you love America, but you love the King also."

Warn said he'll be going for the Bobcats on the inside, but probably won't show it much this Saturday.

One football player from Bozeman wears his allegiance to the Griz every Saturday when he puts on the Montana jersey. Andrew Schmidt said being a Griz from the rival school is great, adding that the coaches and winning program were what attracted him to UM.

"It's great, especially when we win," the sophomore running back said. "I can go back with bragging rights over Christmas break."

Schmidt isn't the only Griz football player with ties to MSU. Wide receiver Ryan Bagley's parents both went to Montana State. His father, Don, was a running back for the Bobcats.

"I grew up a Cat fan my whole life," Bagley said. "I didn't even like the Griz until my senior year

of high school."

He said the stadium, fans, coaches and the program itself were attractive to him when he signed with the Griz, and added that those things played a role in converting his parents into "the biggest Griz fans" he knows. That, along with the Christmas presents they receive.

"I got them Griz gear for Christmas my first year," he said. "When I saw them wear it I knew they supported me."

But, like Bagley's dad, who still has Bobcat license plates on his truck, there are some people who just can't let go entirely. The UM campus is full of students from Bozeman, and on any given day, they wouldn't think twice about it ... except for maybe one Saturday in November.

Va. Tech, Memphis look into claims that lawyer gave players money

SONJA BARISIC
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORFOLK, Va.—Two universities and the NCAA are investigating allegations that two pro athletes received cash and other items from a lawyer when they were still in school, officials said Thursday.

Virginia Tech is working "in a spirit of cooperation with the NCAA" to investigate claims against former Hokies football player Jimmy Williams, now a cornerback with the Atlanta Falcons, school athletic director Jim Weaver said.

Weaver said the investigation resulted from a lawsuit that attorney Carl C. La Mondue of Norfolk filed last week demanding Williams and his father reimburse him about \$55,000.

"We're in the early stages of it, but we've got to get to the bottom of it, and our objective is to get to the bottom of the issue as quickly as we can," Weaver said in a telephone interview.

La Mondue also filed a similar lawsuit last week in Norfolk Circuit Court seeking reimbursement for almost \$50,000 in cash and benefits from former University of Memphis basketball star Shawne Williams, now an Indiana Pacers rookie.

The court dismissed that lawsuit Wednesday at the lawyer's request. There was no explanation for the request in court records, and neither lawsuit says why La Mondue gave money to the athletes, who are not related.

Memphis released a statement late Thursday announcing that it is investigating the situation, despite the lawsuit's dismissal, and "will take all necessary action if these allegations are substantiated."

"We have also been in contact with the NCAA and are working cooperatively with that organization to investigate these allegations," university athletic director R.C. Johnson said in the statement.

NCAA spokeswoman Jennifer Kearns confirmed Thursday that the NCAA is working with both schools to investigate the allegations against the athletes. The NCAA generally does not comment on specifics about investigations, she said.

The NCAA prohibits athletes and their relatives from receiving "nonpermissible awards, extra benefits, or excessive or improper expenses not authorized by NCAA legislation," according to the NCAA's Web site. Such benefits include a loan of money.

Jimmy Williams had not responded to the lawsuit against him, filed in Norfolk Circuit Court.

Williams told the Daily Press of Newport News, Va., that he and his father never accepted gifts or money from La Mondue.

"He's saying he gave us some ridiculous amount of money,

which is not true," Williams told the newspaper.

Williams said La Mondue wanted to become his agent, and that he had met with the attorney in November 2005, but that La Mondue "wasn't big enough." Williams hasn't hired a lawyer, and said the NFL Players Association is "handling" the situation.

"I'm not worried about it. I'm good," Williams said. "The truth will come out."

Falcons spokesman Reggie Roberts said Thursday that the team had no comment.

Happy Walters, an agent for

Shawne Williams, said Thursday that the claims made in the lawsuit against his client were meritless. He said Williams was traveling with the Pacers and unavailable for comment.

A message was left seeking comment from the Pacers.

La Mondue did not return telephone calls seeking comment Thursday; his office said he was in court.

La Mondue told The Virginian-Pilot newspaper for a story published Thursday that he did not want to discuss the lawsuits because "these are matters that are private."

La Mondue's Web site says his law firm is "ready to assist entertainers and athletes negotiate and prepare contracts."

The lawsuit against Jimmy Williams contends Williams and his father, James Williams Sr. of Hampton, owe La Mondue \$55,149.45, plus interest, for "various services rendered" at their request from Nov. 24, 2004 to Nov. 13, 2005, while Williams was at Virginia Tech.

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Griz-Cat to put an end to one team’s winning streak

PETE DELMOE
MONTANA KAIMIN

The more things change, the more they stay the same. There will be a lot of new faces and playmakers in this year’s Cat-Griz game on Saturday at Washington-Grizzly Stadium, but the stakes haven’t changed. Last year, the Griz headed to Bozeman with a chance to win the Big Sky Conference outright but were defeated 16-6 by the Bobcats, forcing the Griz into a three-way tie for the title with MSU and Eastern Washington. Entering this weekend’s game, Montana has another shot to win the conference outright, but another Griz defeat at the hands of the Bobcats would once again force them to share the conference crown with MSU. The Griz (9-1 overall; 7-0 Big Sky Conference) clinched at least a share of the conference title, their ninth in a row, with last weekend’s 53-21 win over

Northern Colorado, but that doesn’t diminish the upcoming game against MSU in the eyes of the Griz football players and coaches. “This is a huge rivalry, one of the oldest in college football,” said senior defensive end Mike Murphy. “If we were 0-10 right now we’d go out there with the same intensity, wanting to win. It’s not a matter of taking care of our goals already. This is one of our main goals.” As usual, both teams enter the game with state bragging rights on the line. But this year, both teams will feature relatively new looks as far as personnel is concerned. Last year, the Griz entered the game with a struggling offense that featured freshman quarterback Cole Bergquist under the center. This year, however, Montana’s passing attack will be led by senior Josh Swogger, a transfer from Washington State, and a receiving corps that has matured and gained a new face in Washington transfer Craig

Chambers. Swogger has thrown for 1,772 yards and 10 touchdowns with seven interceptions and is 8-1 as the Montana starter. This year, the Bobcats (7-3 overall; 6-1 BSC) had to replace four-year starter Travis Lulay, who went 3-1 against the Griz. The Bobcats opened the season with Cory Carpenter as their starting quarterback, but because of an injury have had to go with junior Jack Rolovich. Rolovich has started the last four games, going 4-0 and has thrown for 1,087 yards with eight touchdowns and seven interceptions this season. “He’ll throw it up a little bit and try to make some plays,” said UM senior cornerback Tuff Harris. “The Bobcats have had Lulay in the past with their quarterback situation. This year, the next guy stepping up,” Rolovich is doing pretty well.” No matter who is at the quarterback position for the Bobcats, the number one target on the MSU team is University of Arizona

transfer Michael Jefferson, who has 54 catches for 822 yards and eight touchdowns. He ranks second in the conference in receiving yards and touchdowns. “He’s done some good things this year,” Harris said. “He’s put up some numbers. He looks pretty good on film. He runs well, he goes fast and makes plays.” Both teams head into the game riding long winning streaks that have set up this game as a showdown that carries more importance than just state bragging rights. Montana has won nine in a row after a season-opening loss to Division I-A Iowa on Sept. 2. The Bobcats started the season 1-3, but won their last six games to keep pace with the Griz. “They’re on a nice little roll having won six in a row,” said UM head coach Bobby Hauck. “Their scheme’s good, they’re well coached, they’ve got good players, no doubt about it. You don’t win six in a row without that.” This will be the 106th meeting

between the two teams and there are playoff and conference implications on the line, but one of the factors that many people are not looking at is the importance of the Griz winning their final regular season game heading into the playoffs. “You never want to end your season on a loss because it’s so hard to turn around and kind of get the wheels going again next week,” said UM senior running back Brady Green. Montana has lost twice to the Bobcats in the last three years and both of those times the Griz failed to make it out of the first round of the playoffs the following week. “It’s like a playoff game,” Green said. “I kind of like it because it gets you in that playoff mode going into the playoffs.”

Volleyball team loses out of conference tournament

The University of Montana volleyball team’s first trip to the Big Sky Conference tournament since 2000 was a short one. UM dropped a 3-2 match to Northern Colorado in the opening round of the tournament played in Sacramento, Calif. Montana had gone 2-0 against UNC during the regular season but the Bears came

up with a win when it mattered the most. After dropping the first game 30-24, Montana took the next two to put itself in prime position for a win. However, Northern Colorado rallied and after taking a 5-4 lead in game four didn’t trail again the entire match. UM senior Claudia Houle led

Montana with 14 kills but had an astronomical 56 attempts and struggled to a -.018 hitting percentage. In the losing effort, freshman setter Taryn Wright set a Big Sky Conference record with 13 service aces, smashing the previous record of 10, set in 1984 by Montana State’s Maggie Koughan.

UNC had five players with double-digit kills. Montana finishes its season at 12-15 while UNC (13-15) advances to play tournament host Sacramento State tonight. —Kaimin Sports Staff

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